

Message Text

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ORIGIN L-03

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L/EB:PTRIMBLE

AID/GC:EHARKINS

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ARA/CAR:JBURKE

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EFIN, ETRD, EIND, HA

SUBJECT: AEROTRADE, INC.

1. HARRY BOWEN, COUNSEL FOR AEROTRADE, MET WITH VARIOUS DEPARTMENT AND AID OFFICERS ON JULY 8 TO DISCUSS AEROTRADE PROBLEM IN HAITI AND POSSIBILITIES FOR ITS RESOLUTION.

(THE PENDING LAW SUIT BY AEROTRADE AGAINST AID WAS NOT REPEAT NOT MENTIONED.) AT THE MEETING DEPARTMENT OFFICERS INDICATED THAT USG MIGHT BE WILLING, CONSISTENT WITH USUAL PRACTICES, THROUGH USE OF GOOD OFFICES TO ENCOURAGE GOH OFFICIALS TO SIT DOWN WITH AEROTRADE AND ATTEMPT TO NARROW DIFFERENCES AND ULTIMATELY WORK OUT A SETTLEMENT. DEPARTMENT OFFICERS CAUTIONED THAT GOH MIGHT NOT BE WILLING TO AGREE TO SUCH MEETINGS ESPECIALLY IN LIGHT OF LUCKNER CAMBRONNE INVOLVEMENT WITH AEROTRADE, BUT THAT SUGGESTION ON PART OF USG OF SUCH A MEETING MIGHT NEVER-

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THELESS BE WORTH THE TRY. SUBSEQUENT TO MEETING BOWEN

WROTE CARIBBEAN COUNTRY DIRECTOR FORMALLY REQUESTING THE
DEPT. TO TAKE MATTER UP WITH GOH.

2. ACCORDINGLY, EMBASSY IS REQUESTED TO RAISE AEROTRADE
MATTER AT APPROPRIATE LEVEL WITH GOH OFFICIALS. YOU
SHOULD INDICATE THAT WHILE USG TAKES NO POSITION ON
MERITS OF MATTER, WE REMAIN CONCERNED THAT DISPUTE HAS NOT
BEEN SETTLED AND AT THE PRESENT TIME THERE APPEARS TO BE
NO IMMEDIATE PROSPECT OF ITS RESOLUTION. WHILE WE

REALIZE THAT GOH APPARENTLY BELIEVES THAT AEROTRADE HAS
NOT DEALT PROPERLY WITH IT, AEROTRADE ON THE OTHER HAND
FEELS THAT IT HAS DELIVERED EQUIPMENT FOR WHICH IT HAS
NOT BEEN PAID. IT SEEMS TO US, THEREFORE, THAT THERE IS
LITTLE TO BE LOST AND POSSIBLY MUCH TO BE GAINED IF APPRO-
PRIATE GOH OFFICIALS WOULD AGREE TO SIT DOWN WITH AEROTRADE
REPRESENTATIVES AND DISCUSS THEIR DIFFERENCES. YOU
SHOULD INDICATE THAT MR. BYERS, AEROTRADE PRESIDENT,
BOWEN AND TWO AEROTRADE VICE PRESIDENTS WOULD BE WILLING
TO MEET WITH GOH OFFICIALS ON THIS MATTER AT THE LATTER'S
CONVENIENCE. YOU MAY TELL GOH THAT AEROTRADE HAS
INITIATED LEGAL ACTION AGAINST THE USG BASED ON OUR FAIL-
URE TO APPLY HICKENLOOPER AMENDMENT TO HAITI AS A RESULT
OF AEROTRADE MATTER. USG IS, OF COURSE, CONTESTING THIS
SUIT, BUT FOR OBVIOUS REASONS IT WOULD BE SIMPLER FOR
ALL CONCERNED IF THE MATTER COULD BE AMICABLY SETTLED. KISSINGER

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